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JANUARY 2023

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 27, Number 1

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Stay Informed of Local Zone Issues: Your Opinion Counts

Keep up to date with local zoning decisions impacting the Lillian area through public hearings taking place monthly on proposed subdivision changes throughout Baldwin County.

You can call for updates at Baldwin County Planning and Zoning for information at (251) 580-1655 and can even leave comments at BaldwinOurVision.com or Draft Future Land Use Plan. Check <https://www.baldwinourvision.com/> for times.

By going to baldwincounty-al.gov, clicking on PUBLIC NOTICES every week you can keep in the know about upcoming agenda items.

Email your support or opposition to: planning@baldwincounty-al.gov and are asked to copy to: RuralCharacterLillian@gmail.com.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO LIGHT A TOWN

Awesome, Industrious Effort Has a List of Heroes, Patrons and Delighted Participants

The Christmas spirit was on full display at the Lillian Recreational Park during December. Several thousand people visited and enjoyed the Park's Christmas in the Park nightly lights extravaganza.

This year's Christmas in the Park featured thousands of lights, music by Cutis Cantrell, visits and hot chocolate with Santa, "snowball" fights, ornament making, games and activities for children of all ages. Children were not only able to tell Santa what was on their Christmas list, but they could also write a letter to him and put it into the park's letters to Santa mailbox or give it to him directly.



(CONTINUED PAGE 18) *For photo roundup of this year's tradition see pages 18 and 23*



SPOT YOURSELF AT BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (SEE PHOTOS PAGE 12)

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay hosted the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Lillian Community Club. After visiting with Santa, the boys and girls, aged six to 12, received gifts. More than 300 were served breakfast and 150 gifts were distributed.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Flat-picking' Troubadour Dana Cooper Heads to LCC January 18

Dana Cooper calls himself a troubadour, harking back to the legends of traveling Medieval minstrel-poets spreading tales of courtly love and knightly valor.

So it looks like Lillian is about to be treated to another occasion of legendary talent finding its way to Perdido Bay at the Lillian Community Club.

Cooper is a Nashville-based poet, storyteller and songwriter whose mixture of flat-picking, finger picking, percussive strumming and harmonica licks have engaged and inspired audiences around the world.

The tour comes as his latest CD *I Can Face The Truth* charts on five radio rankings including Americana, Indie Folk, Alternative Folk and roots.

"Dana Cooper is an Americana treasure that you likely have never heard... If you are not previously hip to the Dana Cooper scene, use this opportunity to right a grievous wrong," urges Rock is the New Roll,

"Dana Cooper is an honest and passionate veteran who has paid his dues, done the work, and whose name deserves to be on the wall beside every other great who made Americana, folk and the music of

the 70's the treasure that it is today," writes Merlin David of *Music & Musicians Magazine*

I Can Face the Truth, not only boasts a telling title but more importantly, reflects an unimpeded joy and exuberance that are exactly what's needed during this pessimistic period of modern history, "writes Lee Zimmerman of *American Songwriter*.

Co-produced by Cooper and veteran multi-instrumentalist Dave Coleman, *I Can Face the Truth* is an "unmitigated triumph, an album that should finally garner Cooper the credit he so decidedly deserves," Zimmerman says.

Cooper's love affair with music evolved from his earliest memories of his father George taking him to the Calico Cat in Kansas City, popping a coin in the jukebox and listening to Dana sing along with Hank Williams & Ernest Tubb. Today, his rendition of "I'm so Lonesome I Could Cry" consistently ranks among music critics' top covers of the iconic Hank Williams ballad.

Over the five decades to come, Cooper would forge a radiant career, starting with his first self-titled release on Elektra Records. It was the first of 28 albums that would net him a long pedigree of

prestigious music awards.

If Cooper's name is not a household word, he has collaborated with plenty of well-known musicians, including Lyle Lovett and Don Henly, to name couple.

"I tend to write a lot of songs about seizing the day, claiming your life and being in the moment," Cooper said in an interview with *Country Music News*.

"He may be weathered and seasoned but it all serves a grand end," one entertainment reporter wrote.

Cooper said farewell to playing in smoky, noisy bars years ago. These days, he opts for quiet venues where people come to listen.

He'll be playing in the smoke free area of the Lillian Community Club at 6 p.m. Jan. 18. Admission is free.



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Holiday Season is a Busy Time; But it's Well Worth Our Efforts

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, etc." is about the only Charles Dickens quote I remember from the olden days of my childhood. Each December, though, it comes back like a rocket from space.

I love Christmas but by the end of December, I'm always glad it's over. And why, you ask? It's because there is so much going on starting with Thanksgiving. It's very tiring, but so, so uplifting.

Most of my involvement is with the Optimist Club. We start with the Community Thanksgiving Service, move on to the ARC dinner for special needs youngsters and oldsters and before you know it, the Annual Christmas Parade is here, followed by Breakfast with Santa and ending with Christmas dinners for the needy. But you know that, because you are probably involved in it in some way, too.

You may not wrap the presents, cook the meals or stage the parade, but you participate by attending the events and most of all by participating in the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay fundraisers. Without you,

we couldn't do it. And special thanks to the Lillian Community Club for making their facility available for many of our projects.

But wait a minute, it's not just the Optimist Club that brings tidings of comfort and joy this time of year. I hope you got to the Lillian Recreational Park to see Christmas in the Park. What a wonderful event for our community. Didn't you just love the snow-topped mountain with the penguins on the sleds? Yep, they have already met and discussed some new stuff for next year.

And what about the churches with their beautiful decorations to celebrate the birth of Christ? I don't know about your church, but our "decorators" at St. Joseph come up with something different every year to make our holiday special.

And speaking about churches, thanks to all who share their goodness with those in need, starting with the shoeboxes and providing meals to those who might have to eat peanut butter and jelly if it weren't for those who distribute food at Christmas. Wait a minute, they do that



**Just a
Thought or
Two**

By Sally McKinney

throughout the year. And don't you just love the caroling and other music events?

Nope, I won't forget about our Fire Department. They seem to be everywhere when needed, not just for fires and other emergencies. The fire department brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to the park to visit with the children (and some adults). Next thing you know they are in the parade. And no, that wasn't an emergency, it was our guys and gals bringing cheer to the neighborhoods. Don't forget the help they gave to the annual Spanish Cove parade.

Well, the point I'm trying to make is Lillian has a small population compared to those on the east and west of us. Yet we enjoy all the wonderful experiences of nearby cities. We do it because we love our community and we give so that we can back up our boasting that Lillian, Alabama is the best place to live.

Thanks to all who worked all year so that we could have a merry Christmas. And by the way, it would be nice if you could give a little bit of your time next year to outdo this year. Just sayin'.

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A CHARITABLE THANKS FOR CHRISTMAS ASSIST

On December 20th, members of St. Joseph Church St. Vincent de Paul, the Optimist Club of Lillian, and community members joined together during this special time of year to provide 40-plus needy families of the area with all the traditional food items for their Christmas meal, complete with a turkey and a pie.

The organizers want to thank everyone involved in this annual mission of love and charity to others.



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Lillian Gift Donations Delivered



Each year members of Catholic churches in Baldwin County purchase specific gifts for children in need who register with Catholic Social Services in Robertsedale for the Christmas Sharing Program. This year Kevin and Pami McKinney, representing St. Joseph Church in Lillian, delivered more than 40 gifts for 13 boys and girls. Accepting the donations is CSS Director Angela Hickey. CSS offers help for all ages including emergency assistance, legal immigration services, To Be Options for pregnant women, Backpack Program for students, and Senior Bags Program. It also operates the Second Hand Blessings Thrift Store next to the office building.

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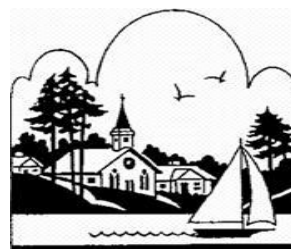
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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The Lillian newspaper is a monthly publication. Advertisements may be dropped off at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, mailed to *The Lillian* at PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549 or emailed to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Advertisement inquiries can be directed to Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 (cell) during the business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADVERTISING SIZES

Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
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 1/2 Page (vertical) = 5" wide x 11" tall
 1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall
 1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall
 Business Card = 3.5" wide x 2" tall
 Classified = maximum of 40 words

The Lillian is not responsible for the factual content of ads or articles submitted to us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome but must be signed and include contact information should our staff have any questions.

No letters will be accepted regarding property owner associations' problems. All letters must be legible and limited to 300 words or less.

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and information from the community. Please submit by:

- Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549
- Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com
- Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library

DISCLAIMER

The content of articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor, the board of directors for *The Lillian* or the Lillian Action Committee.

We are also not responsible for the business practices of our advertisers.

POLICY

Thank you for your articles and news items, but due to space limitations, some submissions may not be included in this issue. They will be included in a future edition when possible. The editorial board has the right to deny any articles or ads not suitable for this publication.

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the February issue of *The Lillian* will be January 18.

Send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 or email chewlatta@yahoo.com for advertising information.

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From Saul to Paul Was More Than a Conversion in Name

On January 25 the Church honors the great Apostle Paul, originally named Saul, born at Tarsus and by privilege a Roman citizen. He was early instructed in the strict observance of all of the Mosaic law, and lived up to it to the best of his ability. In his zeal for the Jewish law, which he thought the cause of God, he became a violent persecutor of the Christians. He was one of those who combined to murder Saint Stephen, and in the violent persecution of the faithful, which followed the martyrdom of the holy deacon, Saul saw himself above others. By virtue of the power he had received from the high priest, he dragged the Christians out of their houses, loaded them with chains and thrust them into prison. In the fury of his self-righteousness he got permission to take all Jews at Damascus who confessed Jesus Christ, and bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might serve as examples for the others. But God was pleased to show Himself to Saul on this road to Damacus. While on his way to Damascus, he and his party were surrounded by a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, and suddenly struck to the ground.

And then a voice was heard saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" And Saul answered, "Who are you, Lord?" and the voice replied, "I am Jesus whom you persecute." This short conversation, accompanied with a powerful interior grace, cured Saul's pride, calmed his rage, and brought a total change in him. Saul, trembling and astonished, he cried out, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" The Lord told him that from now on his name would be Paul and then ordered him to rise and to proceed on his way to the city, where he should



Moving Forward

By Rev.
Tina Lockett

be informed of what was expected from him. Paul, arising from the ground, found that he was blind. He was led by hand into Damascus, where he was lodged with a family that were followers of Jesus.

To this house came by divine appointment a holy man named Ananias, who, laying his hands on Saul, said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on your journey, has sent me that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit" Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he recovered his eyesight. Then he arose, and was baptized; he stayed some few days with the disciples at Damascus, and began immediately to preach in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God. So, a blasphemer and a persecutor of Christians was made an apostle, and chosen as one of God's principal instruments in the conversion of the world. (All of this is written in the book of Acts, chapter 9) The Apostle Paul would go on to write 13 books of the New Testament, more than any another person. He traveled around the area of the Mediterranean Sea preaching about Jesus and continuing his healing ministry. Eventually he was taken prisoner by the Roman Emperor and died in prison.

Perhaps some of you have had a conversion experience. Perhaps not as vivid as the Apostle Paul, but still a significant encounter. I want to encourage you to tell someone your story. For a new year's resolution, tell lots of people your story. Telling our stories is a powerful witness. I love to hear stories of how God has revealed Himself in the lives of His people. If you have a story, please let me know. Call my church. I am always ready for coffee and conversation.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. [...] But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. — Galatians 1:11-16, NIV

American Legion HAM DINNER

Sunday, Jan. 22 *

11am to 1pm at

Lillian Community Club

\$12 per plate - includes ham with raisin sauce, green beans, yams, potatoes, salad, rolls, dessert, iced tea/coffee

Additional fundraiser dinners
will be held Feb. 26 & March 26 *



Community Calendar



January 1 – Special New Year's Day Epiphany Communion Service at 9:00 AM at Lillian United Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian AL 3649

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31- ALANON meets every Tuesday at 7:00 PM, Lillian United Methodist Church in the conference room.

January 14 - Optimist Club Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. Join us as we welcome our guest speaker, Jessica Miller. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for Free!)

January 28 - Optimist Club Teacher of the Year Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club. Join us as we honor this year's Teacher of the Year recipients from Elberta Elementary, Middle & High School. (No Reservation Needed & Guests eat for free!)

Send Items to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

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Left, Front Porch Most Enthusiastic. Above, LCC Spirit of Lillian Mark Carpenter.

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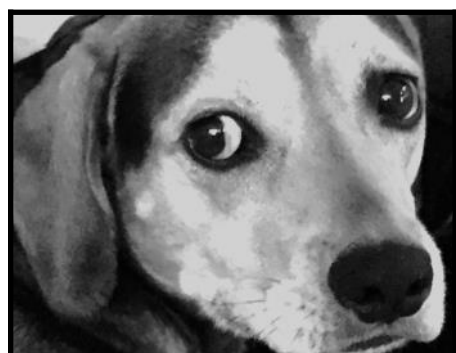
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St. Joseph Altar Society Installs Officers



Members of the St. Joseph Altar Society in Lillian met to discuss past and future programs and to install officers for the coming year. Pictured from left are, Marge Handzus, Nicole Todd, Secretary Sally McKinney, Mary Jane Marion, Sue Karsten, Betty Bovat, Marie Manley, Barbara Bennett, and Margaret Wilcox. Seated are Mary Lou Partridge, President Harriet Shields, Treasurer Barbara Krouse and Vice President Pam West. Also pictured is visiting priest, Fr. Tom Weise.



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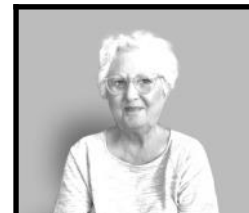
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OBITUARIES

Cherry Smith Patten, 90

Cherry Smith Patten, 90, of Pace, Florida, passed away Thursday, December 15, 2022. Cherry was born July 23, 1932 in Evergreen, Alabama to the late William Newton Smith and Obnetta Powell. Cherry, affectionately known as "Cherry Pie", was born and raised in Conecuh County.

She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, gardening, and camping. She was a member of the Christian Women's Group. Cherry and her husband Herman were longtime residents of the Spanish Cove Community. Cherry is survived by her two daughters, Debra Patten Heath and Cheryl Ann Patten, her four grandchildren, Justin Kyle Niemann (Chastanna), Neely Niemann White (Matt), Jana Motes (Shane), Lacey Heath Roque (Kevin), her two great grandchildren, Sophia Motes and Elijah Motes, her sister, Jane Brooks (Wayne), her sister-in-law, Shirley Smith, and many nieces and nephews.



Betty Jo Hutchinson, 90

Betty Jo Hutchinson, daughter of the late Amma Charles and Mary Lee Peterson, went on to her heavenly rest December 7, 2022. Betty Jo was born May 21, 1932, in State line Mississippi, where she was a graduate of Stateline schools. Upon graduation she married and raised her family. She would then embark on continuing her education at the University of Alabama, graduating with Honors, with a BS in Social Work. Later, as Valedictorian she earned her master's at Talladega College. Upon graduation she served faithfully for over 20 years in the State of Alabama social services division. Upon retirement she settled in Perdido Beach, Alabama where she became a longtime member of St Andrews by the Sea church.

She will be remembered by us all as an incredibly loving and gracious sister, mother, and Gran Gran with a generous heart, radiant spirit, and a true beauty. She was preceded in death by her dear sisters, Elizabeth Peterson, Jackie McGuire, Lucille Deen, Eva Peterson Miller her brother Claude Peterson (Barbara), and her beloved daughter, Donna Lee.

She is survived by her sisters, Bobbie Jean Hall, and Ann Cleckler (Dale), her brothers Charles Peterson (Rosalee), and Joe Peterson (Mary), and her children Donald, William (Wendy), Rick (Marianne) Phillip, Lisa (Dan), David (Heather), her 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren



CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits.

Happy birthday wishes in January go out to: Vince Cooke Heather Price, Becky Wiggins, Jake Fretwell, Bob Garcia, Dick Ayres, Joanne Matthews, Tay Randall, Caroline Canaday, Linda Sepac, Shirley Covert, Earl Paschke, Clarence Hardiman, John Trenfield, Jeannette Delaney and David Monaghan.

Anniversary congratulations go out to Jerry and MJ Rooks 1957, Michael and Marge Handzus 1972 Don and Adele Hartman 1981, Weldon and Ruby Dell Cox 2011.

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549 or place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the February 2023 issue of The Lillian is Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

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BEST BREAKFAST: WITH SANTA!

The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay hosted the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Lillian Community Club. After visiting with Santa, the boys and girls aged six to 12 received gifts. More than 300 were served breakfast and 150 gifts were distributed.



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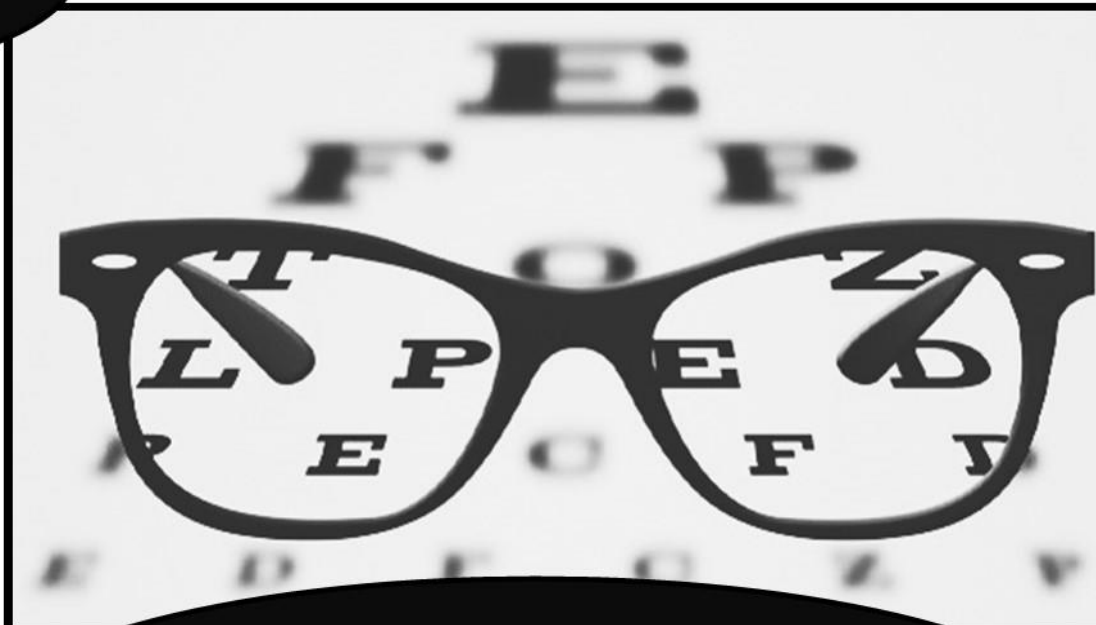


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**Lillian Perdido
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Corner
By Betty Bovat**

Our Library Membership Cards on the Way

Happy New Year! The days are getting nippy, but we still haven't seen any of that white stuff, called snow! That's why we live here!

This is the month the library sends out their annual membership postcard, to be filled out and returned to the library with your donation. This library is a donation library, no funds are received from the federal, county or state government. We are the hometown library, relying on your donations. We operate with volunteers and your help which is greatly appreciated.


Things are slow at the library these days, but we manage to process donated books and DVDs.

Someone has recently donated many DVDs, so if you're interested, please come on down and check out a few DVDs or anything else the library has to offer.

If you do not have our library card, it is free of charge and only takes a minute to fill out a form to get the card.

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Repairs, Painting, Power Washing and
Yard Work*****“Each day is a new
beginning”*****310-795-1389****Gwenvigon@gmail.com****No Matter the Tradition, a New Year is Here**

I can't believe another year has begun. I'm still scratching my head and asking, "are you sure?" As a kid it seemed like it took years just to get through the first semester of grade school. How age changes our perception of things.

Time, however, doesn't always change traditions. The meaning of toasting in the New Year is definitely not new but the original meaning has long been lost. Passing around the wassail (be whole or be well) cup was a pledge of mutual regard and good feeling between friends.

It's a good idea though not to pass the libation around to the point that you get snookered. January 2 might not be welcomed. If you get my meaning.

The French called New Year's a *Day of Reconciliation*. Close all disputes and arguments from your relationships and begin anew on amicable terms. Not a bad idea. Maybe that should be everyone's goal.

Another French concept was that whatever activity or thought one did or had on New Year's Day would be repeated continuously throughout the year. Now, this could have interesting consequences.

First footing was primarily a Scottish tradition where at the stroke of midnight ale, cakes, and other foods were set up for the first foot or feet over the threshold. Good or bad luck depended on the character of the first guests to arrive. I guess this would mean you should be careful who you choose for friends. Yep, that's is another good idea and I'm sure your mother told you that many times while you were growing up.

Gift giving was once a New Year's tradition but eventually this custom fell to Christmas.

Closer to home, in Alabama, a combination of black-eyed peas and

**Bits and
Pieces**

By Jackie Reid

hog jowl had to be eaten on the *First Day* if a person wanted good luck during the coming year. That's not all. The more peas one ate the more money would flow into their lives. Pass me more of those black-eyed peas please.

Resolutions most likely started in BCE as a religious promise to the gods that a person would return the things they borrowed and to pay up their debts. But today it is mostly a western civilization tradition to promise to get rid of bad habits and start good ones. Those bad habits are sure hard to break and easier to start.

Just in case you can't live without information about the meaning of January, I will end your misery. The name was derived from Janus, the Roman god with two faces. One face looked forward and the other face looked backward. Seeing what we did or didn't do in the bygone year should help us make better decisions in the new one. How's that working out for you? Maybe in 2023 we'll do much better and become individuals whom others can love and respect.

That's something to think about.

*“Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”*

- Alfred Lord Tennyson.
In memoriam A. H. H.

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Good Things in the Future According to God's Resolution for You!

Only a third of us will make the traditional New Year's Resolution this year. Midnight strikes and we vow to lose twenty pounds; midnight strikes, and we vow to rise an hour earlier to exercise; midnight strikes, and we vow to master some new work-skill. We promise ourselves we will give up chocolate, or TV, or fats, or carbs and then suddenly realize a whole year of doing without stretches out ahead of us. Our resolutions seem always to tend towards pushing the limits of our abilities, testing the strength of our self-denial. No wonder resolution-making is falling by the wayside. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates to the early Babylonians. They too tended towards the pragmatic and responsible side of resolutions, most often resolving to return borrowed farm equipment. But what if we looked at the New Year as a sea of possibilities, instead of an ocean of responsibilities? What if we resolved to relax more, sleep more, sing more and play more? What if instead of

insisting that we drop ten pounds we look to add five new friends or reclaim five old friends? What if we resolved to be more of what we can be, instead of resolving just to be less of what we already are and feel like a failure?

In Jeremiah 30-31, the prophet looks forward to a new day. He proclaims a glorious vision. Instead of one of his usual doom-gloom/look-how-bad-you've-been reports, Jeremiah offers a sneak-peak into a future that's filled with promise and hope: the new restoration of Israel, the redemption of the people, a return to the land Yahweh had given them. A life of abundance in all things is the divine promise. An abundant life is God's resolution for all God's beloved. In this new beginning proclaimed by Jeremiah, it's God who makes the resolutions: "God resolves, Jeremiah announces, to fill the people's bellies with grain, wine, oil, and meat. God resolves to make their lives so lush they will be like a watered garden.



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

God resolves that their feet will dance, their voices will sing, and their hearts will be merry. God resolve for all the people is that they will be satisfied, or even sated, with the largesse of divine bounty." Although most of Jeremiah's prophetic life had gazed back over the long history of Israel's failures, her sins, her shortcomings, as the Babylonians finally approached the gates of Jerusalem Jeremiah turned his gaze forward and saw the new possibilities that time would offer to Israel.

A new year offers us a unique vantage point - a place from which we can stand at the threshold of time and look back upon the old year and forward into the new yet-to-be year that awaits us. What if Christians

were to celebrate the New Year by letting God make the resolutions, both about your past and your future: With regard to your past: God resolves to forgive your sins, blot out your transgressions, and help you accept your acceptance and embrace the memory of the past with gratitude and grace. Why not confess your sin and receive God's Amazing Grace?

With regard to your future: God resolves to guide your path as a "lamp unto your feet, and a light unto your path." God resolves to give you the direction and diligence, the courage and caution you need to move forward with faith and foresight. God resolves, in the words of Jeremiah, to fill your bellies with good food, to shower your life with good friends and feelings until it becomes like a watered garden until your feet will dance, your voices will sing, and your hearts will be merry.

At the stroke of midnight, as 2022 ends and 2023 begins, we can go merrily into the New Year because God resolves to go behind us and ahead of us in all we do for His glory.

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Lillian Volunteer Firefighters Offer Thanks to Supporters as Year Ends

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 63 calls dispatched by the 911 operators in November: 38 Medical Assistance; 5 Public Assists; 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents/Clean up; 5 Structure Fire; 1 Brush Fire; 4 Cancelled en route; 3 False Alarm/Miscellaneous; and 3 Aircraft Stand By.

I hope each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed all the community festivities. All the volunteers at the department had a great time bringing joy to the faces of kids of all ages; from transporting Santa to "Christmas in the Park;" the "Lillian Christmas Parade;" and of course our all time favorite "Santa Run." Overall, it was a very successful season with lots of entertainment for the Lillian community.

Christmas is the time of joy and a great time to show our love to each other. This was especially true for two of our volunteers, FF Nick Dosh and previous FF Gabby Kruze who finally tied the knot in December. Please join us in wishing them all the love, joy,

and happiness for their future together as one. Way to go Gabby and Dosh!

We would also like to take this time to thank all of you who have sent in donations through our annual solicitation letters. Not only do we give thanks for the money received, but also the kind words of appreciation for the volunteers and the department. I know around the Christmas season

it's very hectic for many of you, so to take time out to ensure you sent off your donation is remarkable. I would also like to remind anyone that may not have received their letter, or lost it during the Holiday rush, we would be more than happy to send out another letter to you, or you can use the form on page 16 in this issue. If you wish to

call us for a solicitation letter or sticker please call and leave a message @ 215-962-2696. In addition, you could also go to the Lillian Fire Rescue Facebook page and donate online at the link pinned to the top of the page. Again, thank you all - we appreciate you!

Happy New Year!

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Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Goretty Lysek

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Nick Dosh and Gabby Kruze dance on their wedding day.



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## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Santa was excited to take the letters back to the North Pole with him.

Monica Leonard, LRP board president, commented, "For the past four years, I have seen the wonder of the season transform the Park into a magical wonderland. Every year I can't imagine it could be any more beautiful and every year I am excited at the thoughtful and whimsical additions. Our volunteers and our sponsors make it happen. We are grateful and proud to be a part of this amazing community."

Lucy Smith, LRP board member and Christmas in the Park volunteer commented, "The event was amazing! Everyone had such a good time - and we loved seeing all the smiles and excitement when the Lillian Fire Rescue trucks brought Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Park. And the fireworks were a great addition to this year's celebration, too."

"This year's event featured a few new displays, including a new Mountain Scene featuring polar bears and penguins sliding down hills. Putting together that display was a bit of an engineering feat, but our 'mountain men' team of Henry Grzyb, Jack Hammond, John Larson, Danny McLain, Dennis Newell, Curt Randow, and Dean Wood, made it come to life. They did an outstanding job!"

Also new this year was an Elf Run, a giant Christmas card made by members of the Technology Student Association at Foley High School and the Park's new "Christmas Train" which made its debut in the Christmas Parade. The Christmas train was made by welding students at South Baldwin Technology students and will be used for special events and activities throughout the year.

The 'Tree Team,' headed by Wayne Smith, spent hours erecting and testing each of the trees and exhibits before the exhibit opened.

"Obviously, having terrific volunteers is one of the critical elements to Christmas in the Park's success. None of this would be possible without them."

Christmas in the Park is notable in large part because of its holiday spirit and its community involvement. In addition to the Tree Team, the following Committee members made this year's festival and preview party a reality: Tonda Adams, Pat Canerdy, Juanita Dodd, Kristi Green, Laura Gross, Kit Hamilton, Jack Hammond, Cheryl Josephson, John Larson, JoAnn Lawrenz, Monica Leonard, Adele Lovelace, Stephanie McDaniel, Sally McKinney, Pat McVey, Wendy Miller, JoAnn Monroe, Debbie Lindsay, Dennis Newell, Robin Newell, Curt Randow, Amy Scott, Doug Scott, Nancy Scott, Dannette Sirmon, Janel Smith, Lucy Smith, Mary Speck, Carol Steely, Judy Wargo, Kim Warner, Sondra Wilkinson, Lynn Wilson, and Dean Wood.

Plans are already underway for the 2023 Christmas in the Park. According to Lucy Smith, "This year will be our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we have so many plans and surprises in store, you'll want to mark opening day, Saturday, December 2, on your calendar now. Trust me, you won't want to miss this one!"

Christmas in the Park was made possible by SILVER BELL SPONSORS Church of the Advent, The Kirkman Companies, Lillian Chevron; REINDEER SPONSORS Fireworks City, Optimist Club of Perdido Bay; SNOWFLAKE SPONSORS Bobe's Garage, Gulf Shores Title, Doug & Nancy Scott, Joy Sullivan Realty, TK Tree & Landscaping, United Bank; CHRISTMAS ELF SPONSORS Cassebaum Farms, Dollar General, Hamby's Kitchen Center, Kammer Chiropractic, Lillian Community Club, and Lillian Family Dentistry.



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## Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Names Two New Members

Two new members were recently welcomed to the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. From left are club President Dodd Bouchillon, new members Dennis and Robin Newell and their sponsor Sheila Bouchillon. Robin volunteered to chair the Annual Lillian Optimist Christmas Parade even before she was inducted in the club. She and her husband are already working on next year's event.

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1 John 5.5

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# LASAR Names 'Top Rescuer'

2022 was a banner year for the team at Lower Alabama Search and Rescue (LASAR). LASAR members received statewide awards and recognition, the unit received one of five grants to fund a search and rescue equipped drone, built a new rappel tower for rope access and climbing training, supported many training and community missions and elected new officers to leadership roles. LASAR continues to be one of the gems of community support organizations in the Lillian area.

Rebecca Brandenburg was named as the Alabama Rescuer of the Year by the Alabama Association of Rescuers (AARS). She received this award for her life saving medical intervention of a seven-month pregnant woman who was in distress. The

woman had been walking on a very rural neighborhood street in the wee hours of the morning and went into spontaneous childbirth. The woman began screaming for help and fortunately for her, Rebecca heard the screams and jumped out of bed to assist. Rebecca found the woman on the ground with the baby's head delivered but unable to deliver his shoulders. Using her many years of medical training and experience, Rebecca immediately began adjusting the position of the baby for delivery. Once delivered, Rebecca was able to clear the baby's airway. She used a shoe lace to tie off the umbilical cord and proceeded to complete the placenta delivery. By the time the ambulance and Deputies arrived, the mother and newborn six-pound baby

boy were safe and in stable condition. We congratulate Rebecca on receiving this statewide recognition award and especially for her willingness to step-up and put her emergency medical training and expertise to use.

Ray Hogans has been one of the vital and key leaders of LASAR since its creation as well as the unit's commander for many years. Ray was recently elected to be the new Vice President for the AARS state Executive Board of Directors for Rescue Squads. Ray earned this honor by his willingness to share his rescue, fire, and training education expertise with other units throughout the state. Ray is considered a subject matter expert in the field after many years of service in the military, as a Fire Captain, as a Commander of a Search and Rescue Unit and as a key liaison with FEMA, USCG and other vital emergency services. Ray indicated that he will now be in charge of Education and Training for rescue squads in Alabama and is looking to "raise the bar" on training statewide.

During the AARS statewide conference in November, several LASAR members were presented the highest recognition award available in the country for volunteer service. Senator Greg Albritton and State Representative Ed Oliver were present during the award ceremony to congratulate each recipient. LASAR members John Wade, Duane Whitmyer, Tina Wood and Candy Davidson received the Presidents Lifetime Achievement Award. Doug Goff received the Presidents Gold Award for Volunteerism. All recipi-



From left are Commander of LASAR Ray Hogans, Rebecca Brandenburg and AARS Vice President David Holcome

ents received a lapel pin and a signed personal letter from the President of the United States. These awardees, as well as past recipients from LASAR, were singled out for their persistent devotion and countless hours of volunteer service to the community.

LASAR elected new officers for 2023. John Wade was elected to replace Ray Hogans as Commander for LASAR. John is a long-time member of LASAR and is also a lead rescue diver. Erica Loveland was elected as deputy Commander replacing John Wade. Erica is also active-duty military and brings extensive mechanical and boating experience to the unit. Mike Kovacs will continue in his role as treasurer. In addition to his accounting skills, Mike is a long-time member of LASAR and one of the lead boat drivers. Lettie Rodriguez will replace Debbie Lindsay as secretary. Lettie is a long-time and active member of LASAR, a rescue diver and the lead operations command center radio operator. The members of LASAR congratulate our new officers and look forward to working with them during their two-year term.

All of the LASAR members wish you the best for 2023 and welcome you to join us at LASAR as a member.



## Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavallee,  
Adjutant

The American Legion Post 48 of Lillian hopes you have had a very Merry Christmas and extends their best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year, and a better year in 2023.

We hope everyone came out to the Lillian Christmas parade and saw our float, it was a spectacular event this year, the organizers did a super job.

As we move into the 2022 year, Post 48 starts the year with a few ham dinners planned they are on the fourth Sunday of each of the first three months starting in January the dates are Jan. 22 2023, Feb. 26, 2023, and March 26, 2023.

There will be no drive through this year but we will still have the normal takeout as in past years. These dinners are Post 48's primary fundraiser for the 2023 year.

The cost again this year will be \$12 per meal. The money raised provides the means for continued activities and donations such as building ramps for disabled veterans, maintain-

ing the medical closet for the Lillian community, help sponsor a legion baseball team, sending two high school students to Boys State, and presenting the Veterans Day program. We hope everyone will continue to show support to the Post.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Please come join your fellow legionnaires, we need your help to maintain our post to continue supporting your community.

Membership applications may be picked up at the American Legion Building next to the Lillian Community Club on Wednesday mornings between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., from any member, or at any American Legion meeting.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club.



## Haigler Raised to Master Mason

On Dec. 7, Lillian Masonic Lodge 925 raised J.D. Haigler to Third Degree Mason, Master Mason.

The lecture was administered by the Mobile Valley Scottish Rite team and Brother Masons from Mobile and Baldwin Counties. The event was also attended by Brothers from Florida, Kansas, Ohio and Tennessee.

J.D. Haigler is located in the center of the front row (fourth from the left) with his hands folded.



# Passing Assets Through a Trust: What You Need to Know

As the year winds down, your thoughts might drift to the future. And, as part of that future, you may be thinking of where your financial assets will end up. You've worked hard to accumulate them, and you'll certainly need some of them to support your retirement, but what about the rest? What's the best way to pass them on to your loved ones?

There's no single path for everyone to follow. But you might consider establishing a trust, which offers some key benefits. For example, your estate can avoid the time-consuming, and highly public, process of probate. Plus, you can be highly specific about how your assets will be distributed.

To establish a trust, you will need to work with a qualified estate-planning attorney. And while you'll discuss many issues, here are three key questions that will certainly need to be addressed:

Who will serve as trustee of the trust? As the grantor, or creator, of your trust, you will pick the trustee – the individual or corporate entity that will manage the trust's assets and carry out the purpose of the trust. You could choose a trusted loved one, but this individual might not have the knowledge or experience to manage the responsibilities of a trustee. As an alternative, you could choose a corporate fiduciary, such as a bank or trust company. These entities are typically regulated by outside agencies and provide significant public matter expertise. Of course, they charge for their services and often have account minimums.

When are distributions made? As the grantor, you can choose when assets will be distributed to the beneficiaries you've named. You could decide to keep the assets in the trust until a beneficiary reaches the age of majority; note that the age of majority is not the same in all states. Or you could choose to "phase in" the distributions at particular ages – e.g., 30, 35, 40 – or after a certain

number of years. You could even hold assets in the trust for the lifetimes of the beneficiaries.

These types of choices will depend on several factors, such as your feelings for how responsible a beneficiary might be in managing money.

For what purposes can the trust assets be used? In addition to choosing when your trust should make distributions, you can decide how these assets should be used. You could designate some broad categories, such as health, education, maintenance and support. A beneficiary's request for distributions in these areas is usually granted. But you could also structure the trust to provide mandatory income, perhaps once a year, or include a provision that provides incentives, such as distributing certain amounts of money once the beneficiary has achieved a milestone, such as finishing a degree or purchasing a first home.

One final note: Although you clearly have great control over what your trust can accomplish, its effectiveness will also depend, to a great extent, on its asset level.

With this in mind, you'll want to pay close attention to your investment decisions throughout your life and your withdrawal strategy during retirement. The better your choices in these areas, the more options you'll have with your trust – and the greater the potential benefits for your beneficiaries. For questions, please contact Jason Kozon located at 22394 Miflin Road in Foley, 251-943-3399.



## Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon of Edward Jones

## Elberta Students Return From 'STAR' Events



Six students traveled from Elberta Middle School to San Diego, California, to attend the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference and compete in the national level of STAR Events. Entrepreneurship received a silver medal for their boutique project; Chapter Service Project received a silver medal and National Programs in Action a bronze medal for their sweet dreams project where they made almost 200 pillowcases to donated to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital; and Career Investigations received a silver medal for their research on becoming an art teacher. Pictured (left to right) are: Mercedes Nicely, Chloe Russo, and Saylor Nicely (Entrepreneurship); Zoeylynn Barnwell (Chapter Service Project Display); Alyssa Morrow (Career Investigations); and Gavin Satterwhite (National Programs in Action).



## First Baptist Church

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12

### Sunday Worship Opportunities:

Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Evangelism Study and Dinner 5:00 pm

### Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

Children Grades: K-5 Bible Activities

Youth Grades 6-12: Bible Study & Activities

\*Free childcare is provided during all Bible Studies and services at our church.

Pastor: Josh Thompson

Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson

Children's Director: Debbie Sweppenhiser

Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

34421 Barclay Ave ~ PO Box 178 ~ Lillian  
251-962-2180

LillianBaptist36549@gmail.com

Submit your news items, photos, meeting notes and community interest pieces to

The Lillian by email to [lillianeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:lillianeditor@yahoo.com)



# Here's a Quick Review of a Few 'Fraudster Spoofs' That Lurk Out There

We will soon have information on tax changes for 2022, but for now I want to repeat some old and new advice concerning scams. Yes, it is old hat, but still happening because scammers are becoming more sophisticated and as we age, we are becoming more vulnerable. It's worth repeating.

Let's start with some basics. How many different types of scams are there? They are so prevalent, we have to be on the alert at all times. Even routine requests for information should give pause. Who's asking, why do you need this, did I initiate this inquiry, etc.

Even tax professionals can get caught. In fact, the IRS continues to warn about instances where tax professionals, especially those who engage in remote transactions, have been vulnerable this year to identity thieves posing as potential clients. The criminals then trick practitioners into opening email links or attachments that infect computer systems and allow them to steal client data.

Tax season is prime time for phone scams. The IRS will never call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill. The IRS will not threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying, or demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed. Be especially wary about a phone call about a tax refund.

In this most recent scam variation, fraudsters "spoof" the telephone number of the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) office in Houston or Brooklyn. Calls may be 'robo-calls' that request a call back. Once the taxpayer returns the call, the con artist requests personal information, including Social Security number and birth date. TAS does help if you need assistance resolving an IRS problem, if your problem is causing financial difficulty, or if you believe an IRS system or procedure isn't working as it should. TAS, however, does not initiate calls to taxpayers "out of the blue." Typically, a taxpayer would contact TAS for help first, and only then would TAS reach out to the taxpayer.

For those using computers or cell phones, make certain your security software is updated. Make sure anti-virus software for computers has a feature to stop malware, and that there is a firewall enabled that can prevent intrusions.

Use strong and unique passwords for all accounts. Use multi-factor authentication whenever possible. Shop only secure websites by looking for the "https" in web addresses and the padlock icon. Avoid shopping on unsecured and public Wi-Fi in places such as coffee shops, malls or restaurants. Never, never click on a link suggesting you won something or from someone you do not know. Watch out for fake charity scams. Never let any



## Let's Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs  
CPA, EA

caller pressure you. A legitimate charity will be happy to get a donation at any time, so there's no rush. Donors should take time to do the research.

You should ask the fundraiser for the charity's exact name, web address and mailing address, so it can be confirmed later. Some dishonest telemarketers use names that sound like large well-known charities to confuse people. Also, be careful how a donation is paid.

Do not give numbers from a gift card or by wiring money, which are common ways scammers ask people to pay. Always pay by credit card or check.

WISHING YOU A  
**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

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to start a new chapter for  
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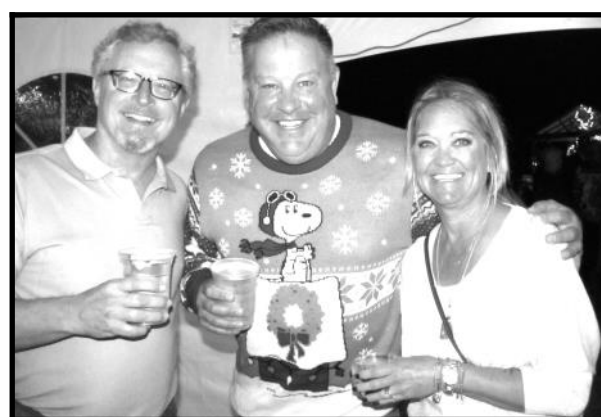
# Christmas in the Park Organizers Assemble for Events Preview Celebration

Lillian Recreational Park launched the Fourth Annual Christmas in the Park event recently to the delight of

the community. The event began with a preview party for adults on Friday night that included heavy hors d'oeuvres,

music and silent and live auctions. The following day was dedicated to children's activities including

face painting, ornament painting and a snow ball fight, Alabama style and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus.



## Thank you, Christmas in the Park sponsors!



The Lillian Recreational Park would like to thank this year's Christmas in the Park sponsors. Without their wonderfully generous community support, Christmas in the Park would not be possible.

### SILVER BELL SPONSORS

Church of the Advent  
Kirkman Companies  
Lillian Chevron

### REINDEER SPONSORS

Fireworks City  
Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

### SNOWFLAKE SPONSORS

Bobe's Garage  
Gulf Shores Title  
Doug & Nancy Scott  
Joy Sullivan Realty  
TK Tree & Landscaping, LLC  
United Bank

### CHRISTMAS ELF SPONSORS

Cassebaum Farms, Inc.  
Dollar General  
Hamby's Kitchen Center  
Kammer Chiropractic  
Lillian Community Club  
Lillian Family Dentistry



### ELBERTA SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS MEET SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS

Members of the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay visited the Special Needs classes at Elberta elementary (above) and high schools (below). They had made special arrangements with Santa and Mrs. Claus to attend and distribute gifts.





# GRANDE DAMES RED HAT LADIES



## Parade, Christmas Party Closed Out Year for All

The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat ladies had an exciting December.

First, five of us enjoyed riding in the Lillian Christmas Parade sponsored by the Optimists. Then on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11 ladies enjoyed our best Christmas party ever at Stacey's Olde Tyme Soda Fountain in Foley.

The sandwiches, salads, and ice cream sodas were delicious.

Our hostesses, Melissa Scott and Waynette Brown encouraged each of us to tell a special childhood memory of Christmas.

We found this was a great way to get to know each other better.

Everyone received a Christmas gift and our birthday girls: Priscilla Westgate, Deborah Donin, and Lorraine Standish also got birthday presents.

Our next gathering will be January 10 hosted by Priscilla Westgate and Diane Gilbert.

### LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

34148 Widell Ave., Lillian, AL 36549

Office Hours: Mon.-Fr. 8A.M.—11A.M. Office (251) 962-3366 & Lounge (251) 962-3966

E-Mail lcc@lilliancommunityclub.com

#### LCC Officers & Board of Directors

Jimmy Willis—President  
Travis Clark -Vice President  
Lee Hoffman—Treasurer  
Mark Carpenter—Secretary  
Melanie Pfaff  
Lisa Ard  
Jennifer Waid  
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(pay in the Lounge or Office)  
Members: \$15.00 a Day  
Located Behind LCC

**BINGO**  
**TUESDAYS 6:00 P.M.**

#### LCC CATFISH DINNER \$12.00

Friday January 13, 2023

**5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

**Catfish, French Fries, Grits,  
Baked Beans, Hushpuppies,  
Coleslaw, Dessert and  
Coffee or Tea  
Music: Big Jake**

**American Legion Ham Dinner  
\$12.00**

**Sunday January 22, 2023**

**11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

**Ham with Raisin Sauce, Green Beans,  
Yams, Potatoes, Salad, Roll, Dessert  
and  
Ice Tea or Coffee**

Dana Cooper  
Singer—Song Writer  
Will be performing in the Hall  
January 18, 2023  
6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.  
Open to the public

**From all of us at Lillian Community Club  
Have a happy and safe  
New Year**

#### LOUNGE HOURS

Sunday thru Thursday  
11:00 A.M.—10:00 P.M.  
Friday and Saturday  
11:00 A.M.—11:00 P.M.

Bloody Mary's Sundays 11-3  
**\$2.50**



#### BANDS:

**Jeri Band Jan 6  
Big Jake Jan 13  
Plus One Jan 15  
Charlie and the Hammerheads  
Jan 20  
Gary Story Jan 22  
Gary Story & Bad Habit Jan 27**

**A \$5.00 COVER CHARGE FOR  
NON MEMBERS**

January 1, 2023  
Opening at 1:00 P.M.

Check our web page for updates to upcoming events.  
Also please like us on our Face Book Page.  
www.lilliancommunityclub.com  
Prepared by : Sandy Fuller